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LETTER DATED 17 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that Armenian troops are, still with impunity, continuing their large-scale offensive all along the front in the territory of Azerbaijan. A particularly critical situation has arisen in the area around Fizuli and Djebrail.

The town of Fizuli has in fact been surrounded and there has been fierce fighting for several days on the approaches to it. During the night of 16 August, Armenia's armed forces seized all the high ground around the district centre of Fizuli as well as the villages of Yukhary Yaglevend and Garakudly.

In the past 24 hours, the Armenian army seized two more populated areas in the Djebrail district of Azerbaijan: the villages of Doshulu and Efendilyag. The town of Djebrail, which Armenian armed forces are attempting to break through to from two directions with the active participation of armoured tank units, has come under a direct threat.

In both districts, there are numerous casualties among the peaceful population, who have abandoned their homes and massed on the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the present time, there is a real danger that the Fizuli and Djebrail districts will be occupied, as a result of which two more districts of Azerbaijan - the Kubatly and Zangelan districts, with a population of approximately 200,000 persons - will be surrounded.

On the morning of 16 August, Armenia's armed forces, with the support of armoured vehicles, also stepped up their advance to the north of Agdam and are moving towards the town of Barda. By 1000 hours fierce fighting was taking place near the village of Djavashirli in the Agdam district.

On the night of 16 August, practically all the populated areas of Azerbaijan situated near the border were subjected to rocket and artillery bombardment from Armenian territory.

In connection with what has been stated above, I urgently request you to convene the Security Council speedily in order to condemn the aggressor and to take all necessary measures to halt the bloodshed.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative